

Cy #1883

Evidentiary Document No. 5246.

Exhibit 'B'

OCEAN ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, SX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit 'B' is a true copy of 31/51 Aust. Inf. Bn (A.I.F.) Nauru-Ocean Island Force, Investigations relating to fate of Europeans on Ocean Island made on 19 Oct. 1945 which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
2. The original above mentioned document cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at MELBOURNE)
this 27th day of May, 1946.) (sgd) DOUGLAS McBAIN Major.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

31/51 AUST. INF. BN (AIF)
NAURU OCEAN ISLAND FORCE

SECRET
19 Oct, 45,

Exhibit 'B'

INVESTIGATIONS RELATING TO FATE OF
EUROPEANS ON OCEAN ISLAND.

The following investigation was conducted on NAURU ISLAND at the direction of the Military Commander by questioning natives of OCEAN ISLAND whom had been transferred during Jap occupation of both islands. The natives questioned were DAVID MURDOCK, KATANGITANG and KIATRA, OCEAN ISLANDERS, on 19 Oct. 45.

On 20 Oct. 45 three other witnesses, NANTA, CHARLIE and MOTL, were interrogated.

DAVID MURDOCK, GILBERTESE, STATES:-

I left OCEAN ISLAND in July, 1943. I found the Japs to be very harsh and cruel.

There were six Europeans on the island:

Mr. CARTWRIGHT
Mr. MERCER
Mr. COLE
Mr. THIRD
Father PUJEBET and
Catholic Brother.

The first four Europeans were imprisoned and were moved about various places of imprisonment.

Father PUJEBET and the Brother were not imprisoned.

They were all treated harshly. I often saw Japanese Officers beating Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. MERCER and Mr. COLE, but not Mr. THIRD, with sticks and struck on the face and jaw. They were very thin and unhealthy and suffering from all the indignities and lack of food. Mr. CARTWRIGHT died on Good Friday 1943 as a result of starvation. He was buried in the European Cemetery at OONA, one of the natives present was Sjt/Major NAPE. The grave was marked with a stone pillar. I know where the grave is.

Mr. MERCER died shortly after Mr. CARTWRIGHT, probably a few months. After Mr. CARTWRIGHT died the Japanese continued their ill treatment of the remaining Europeans. I saw Mr. MERCER a few days before his death, but did not speak to him. Other natives and Japs told us that Mr. MERCER had died. I was told he was buried by the Japs at TAPIWA.

A few months later I left for NAURU ISLAND. Prior to leaving I was questioned by the Japs in the Power House as to the whereabouts of certain spare parts which the BPC had buried. These parts were essential to start the Power House. I refused to give the information to the Jap Commander, DOYAMA, who then called in soldiers, who beat me with an iron pipe, and threatened me with rifle and sword. I was ordered outside. I could not walk, but crawled out. Mr. COLE, who was waiting outside was called in and likewise questioned. I saw them beating Mr. COLE with the same iron pipe, 1 1/2 inches diameter by 7 feet long. Mr. COLE's nose was bleeding. That was the last time that I saw Mr. COLE.

Q. Were the other Europeans alive, when Mr. MERCER died.

A. Yes, besides Mr. COLE, there was Mr. THIRD, who I never saw ill treated and appeared to be in good health. Father PUJEBET and the Brother (BRUMMELL) were on the island, but neither were imprisoned. I did not see the Clergy ill treated, although I had heard of indignities against them.

Q. Is there any one else on the island, who knows what happened to the remaining civilians.

A. Yes. KATANGITANG, who is at present on NAURU may know.

Q. Were you ill treated prior to the incident you have mentioned (beating in the Power House)

A. Yes, I was taken prisoner on the first day and then after questioning was released.

Q. Why did they arrest you.

A. Because I was mistaken for a European, (Mr. MURDOCK is half-caste and has pronounced European features).

Q. What questions were you asked.

A. Where was the Australian money, to which I replied I did not know.

A few months later I was questioned again as to the whereabouts of certain EPC machinery. I denied all knowledge and was beaten with a stick. I was ordered not to leave my village at OOMA and was confined there.

Q. Were you continually confined there.

A. Yes, except when under escort for working parties did I leave the village. We were engaged in digging trenches, building emplacements etc.

Q. Do you know of any atrocities perpetrated against other natives, whilst you were there?

A. The Japs first landed in August, 1942. About 6 months after they landed three OCEAN ISLANDERS - TAMOA, TOANIKARAWA and ROBERT were beheaded in the native cemetery for stealing. All the native inhabitants on the island were ordered to witness this execution and were warned that a similar fate awaited those who did not attend. I did not see the first two, but did see ROBERT beheaded. The Jap Commander, DANURA, was present and the executioners were soldiers NOT officers.

Q. Were the natives tried before executions.

A. Yes.

DAVID MURDOCK CONTINUES

About May, 1943, the Japs had completed the construction of an electric wire around OOMA POINT. Three native prisoners, named KAUBABA, BANGAL and TAUANTANG, all Gilbertese, were taken from the native prison. These three natives were dressed in military uniform and taken to the water's edge, facing the wire, and the winner of the race would gain first prize, which was a trip to KUSAI in the CAROLINES. (At this time food was scarce on OCEAN and prospects at KUSAI was considered very bright). The natives started the race and as they touched the wire they were electrocuted.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs witnessing this event.

A. No, I will find out.

Q. What did they do to the native bodies.

A. I do not know.

Q. Who was the Jap Commander at this time.

A. DOYAMA

Q. Were there any other atrocities.

A. Not that I know of, there may have been.

Q. Was Mr. CARTWRIGHT and Mr. MERCER dead before this happened.

A. Yes. Not long before.

Q. How did you find conditions on NAURU compared to OCEAN.

A. Much better, although the Japs were cruel on NAURU, it was much worse on OCEAN. Beatings and severity was much more common.

Q. What was the name of the boat you came over in.

A. IKUDA MAU about 7,000 tons. We left OCEAN at 1700 hours one day and arrived NAURU 0400 hours the next morning.

Q. Who were the Jap Commanders whilst you were on the island.

A. (1) DANURA (? TANIURA)
(2) DOYAMA (? TOYAMA)
MATAKE 2 i/c

Q. Did you see MATAKE perpetrate any cruelties.

A. He may have, being second in command.

Questioning of KATANGITANG a native of OCEAN, who was brought over to NAURU by the Japs, approximately Sept. 1943.

This native gave similar answers to the questions above.

Q. Were you ever maltreated on OCEAN ISLAND.

A. Yes, once I went to retrieve a broken husk of pawpaw in front of the No. 1 Jap Doctor's dwelling. He saw me and beat me with a hockey stick. I fell down after about twenty strokes. Three times I fell down, receiving about 60 strokes in all.

Q. When did you leave OCEAN.

A. About one or two months after MURDOCK

Q. Were the remaining four Europeans alive when you left.

A. The Father had died before I left. I do not know whether Mr. COLE or Mr. THIRD were alive or not. The Brother was alive.

Q. How did the Father die.

A. I heard from the Brother that Father PUJELET who was quite well and not sick had been taken to the hospital and operated

on in the stomach. He was not seen again. The Brother told us that the Japs had killed the Father.

Q. Do you know where Father PUJEBET is buried.

A. No.

Q. Can you remember exact date when the Father died.

A. No, a few weeks before I left.

Q. Did any further OCEAN ISLANDERS come over after you left.

A. No, our ship was the last, about forty of us. It was a big ship.

Q. And who were the remaining Europeans.

A. Mr. COLE and the Brother I saw. I did not see Mr. THIRD.

Q. When was the last time you saw Mr. THIRD.

A. About three months before I left.

Q. Did you ever see Mr. THIRD ill treated.

A. No.

Q. Did you see the other Europeans being ill treated.

A. I saw Mr. COLE, being beaten and the others forced to do hard labour.

Q. Do you know the names of any Japs, who committed any cruelties.

A. No, I don't know their names, they were all cruel. The name of the officer, who took the Father away was KOTSUA.

Q. When was the last time you spoke to the Father.

A. About a week before he was taken away. He told me that this officer KOTSUA was continually pestering him, calling in at his house, searching through the trunks and rooms and often spitting in his face.

Q. What actually did the Brother tell you.

A. He said that the Father had died, and he thought that he had been murdered.

Q. What did KOTSUA do.

A. I do not know. He wore two stars.

Q. How many natives remained on the island after you left.

A. About 50 to 60 married, 160 single. We were told that the 50 married families were to go to the CAROLINES, whilst the 160 single were to remain. We were told they were going away for a week after we left.

Exhibitory Document No. 5246.

This is the document marked Exhibit 'B' referred to in the affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, AHQ, sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said affidavit.

(signed) W. BUNSELL, Capt.

Evidentiary Document # 5246

証書番号五二四六号 登録済

オセアニ島 戦争犯罪

一 S-X-10334 ヌルホルン陸軍司令部附生ダグラス・マクベイに宣誓し、陳述ス

二 余、濠洲軍將校ナリ

一、二 証書 B トレーサ附生書類、一九四五年十月十九日

濠洲軍歩兵大隊(A-F)ナリ。オセアニ島軍

オセアニ島在住欧州人、運命ニ関スル調査、真実ニ至

ニシテ、余、公務上、其、管理ニ関スルモノナリ

二、上記書類、原本、戦争犯罪、裁判、タメニ用スル
庭に在る軍人ニハ、公平ニ能ナリ。

ダグラス・マクベイ(署名)

一九四五年五月二十七日 ヌルホルンニテ余、面前ニ於テ
宣誓セラルタリ

W. アンセル大尉

濠洲軍將校

3/4 濠洲軍歩兵大隊(A-F)ナリ。オセアニ島軍

被 一九四五年十月十日

証書 B

オセアニ島在住欧州人、運命ニ関スル調査

左、調査、一九四五年十月十九日 ナル島ニ於テ軍司令部、

指令ニ依リ行ハラルニ、日本軍がナリ。オセアニ島ヲ

占領セル當時轉住セラルタル オセアニ島住民ニ対シテ

タル訪問ナリ。訪問サレタル オセアニ島住民ハ、

ミッドウエー、カウエー、及びキアトナナリ

一九四五年十月二十日他ノ三名、證人、即チナナリ

及びモウトガ訪問セラルタリ

1883

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第五二四六号

ギルバート島を侵。ダウイッド マーボック 陳述。私ハ一九四三年
七月オースティン島ヲ占ム。私ハ日本軍ガ非常ニ乱暴ヲ殘
デアルヲ知ツ。島ニハ六人ノヨーロッパ人が居タ。

カートライト 氏

マーサー 氏

コール 氏

サード 氏

ブーシニベー神父トカソリツウ教徒

初、四人ハ監禁サレ種々、監禁場所ニ移サレタ。ブーシニベー
神父及、教徒ハ監禁サレタ。彼等ハ凡テ乱暴ヲ受ケタ。

私ハ日本軍ノ士官ガカートライト氏、マーサー氏、コール氏ヲ棒
ナゲリ、顔ヲ打ツナゲリテ屈ルヲ要シタ。併シ
サード氏ハナゲラレタ。彼等ハ非常ニヤセ、不健康ニ
ナリ。又、アラニル侮辱、食糧不足ニ苦シメテ居タ。

カートライト氏ハ餓ノ結果、一九四三年 聖金曜日ニ死
シタ。彼ハオースティン島ノ墓地ニ埋葬サレタ。

埋葬ニ列席シタ現地人ノ中一人ハ、ネーグ特務曹長デアツタ。

2 墓ハ石極デカクトラシテ居タ。私ハ昔々、場所ヲ知ツテ居ル。

マーサー氏ハカートライト氏ノ死後、マモナツニテ、多分数月

後死シタ。カートライト氏ノ死シタ後モ、日本軍ハ殺リ、

ヨーロッパ人ヲヒドク取り扱ヒ續ケタ。私ハマーサー氏ニ死ヌル

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数日家を逢フツガ話ハミナカシク。

他、現地人ト日本人ハ我々ニ「サー」氏ガ既ニ死シテマシタ
ニ「ヲ」語ツク。私ハ彼ガ「ワ」ニ日本軍ニヨリテ埋葬サレタト
聞ク。

数ヶ月後私ハオウル島ニ伺ツテ出発シク。本館ニ送リ
ツテ私ハB.P.O.C.ガ埋メタ或ニ予備、部分留、防在

ニツイテ、電報ヲテ日本軍ニテ事ヲテシタ。之ガ事、部令
品ハ発電所ヲ運轉スルノニ必要ニ缺クベカラズルモノアリタ。

私ハ日本軍指揮官^(謀士官等)トヤマシリシテ敵ハル事ヲ拒ニタ。
彼ハ数名、兵士ヲ呼ビタ。

彼等ハ銃器ヲ私ヲナグリ、小銃ト剣ヲオボカシク。

私ハ外ニ出口ト命ゼラレタガ外ナカシタ。這ツテ出タ。

外ニ待ツテ居タ。コール氏ハ呼ビ入ラレ、同様、訊問セタ。

v6.3.

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私、假令が経一時半、長サ七尺、同、鉄管より一氏ア、
ソレが私がコール氏ヲ見タ最後デアツタ。

問 マサチ氏がテラノ時他、歐洲人ハ何キヲサシメタ。

答 バイコール氏、他マサチ氏ハ居リ、彼ハ虐待サシメコトヲ見タト
ガウ、モ大度健康、ヤラシム、プーゴベー神父トカノ、
教徒アランセル島ニ居リマシタガ二人トモ半ニ人ノカノ
デタ。私ハ牧師ハ侮辱サシメコト、同キヤラガ虐待サシメ
ト、見タコトカアリマセン。

* * *

問 貴下カソニ居タ同、他、原住民ニ対シテナサシメ日奉行ヲ知
ツテ居タス。

答 日本軍、一九〇二年八月ニ初メテ上陸シタ。彼等が上陸後
六ヶ月経タ頃、三人、オーヤシ島人、タマス、トウニカワ、ロ、
一トが密通罪ニテ土地、墓、地ニ於テテ首ヲ斬リタ。島、
全住民ハ此、執行ヲ見様命令サシメテ、一ト同様、
運命ガ付テ居ルト懸念サシタ。私ハ最初、三人ハ見
カッタ。一トが首ヲ切リタ、ハ見タ。日本軍、指揮官
同タラ、(訳註、田村?)ガ之ニ列席シ、執行者ハ教名
ハタマツテ土官デハカッタ。

No. 4

問 此ハ原住民運ハ判、執行前ニ裁判ニ附サシタカ。

答 ソウデス。

タウイット、ヤードワ、更ニ續ク。

一九四三年頃、日本人ニ依リナウル島ニ連シテ来リシモノ
ニヤン島原住民カタニギタニニ対スル質問

* * * * *

問 貴方ハオーレン島デ産付ヲ受ケタコトアリマスカ

答 ハ、私ハ一度、日本人医師第一号住宅、前ニアルバウ
コ、シタモ取リニ行キモシタ。彼ハ私ヲ見ルトホッケー、棍
棒デ私ヲ打ナマシタ。二十回位打タレタ後、私ハ倒レモシタ。
皆デ六十回、殴打ヲ受ケテ私ハ三回倒レモシタ。

問 何時貴方ハオーレン島ヲ発チモシタカ

答 マードックノ島發後約一ニ三月デシタ。

問 貴方ガ出テユク時、残ッタ四人、歐洲人ハ生キテモシタカ

答 神父ハ、私ヲ発ッ前ニ亡クナツテキマシタ。コール氏トサート
氏が生キテキタカドウカハ、私ハ知りマセン。カソリック教會
員ハ生キテキマシタ。

問 神父ハドウシテ死ニモシタカ

答 私ハ教會員カラ日頃頗ル健康デ病氣、ナカッタ。不
ジベイ神父ガ入院シテ胃ノ手術ヲウケタト聞キマシタ
ガ、ソレ以後不目ニカリマセンデシタ。教會員、語テハ
神父ハ日本人ニ殺サシタ、ダトイフコトデシタ。

* * * * *

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問. サード氏が虐待せしむるを見たりか

答. イエ

問. 他より此令を虐待せしむるを見たりか

答. 私に此令が殴打され、他人達が無罪に重労働をせしめられ見たり

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問. 最後貴方が神父に話した、何時に

答. 彼が連日行はれた約一週間おき、彼は、将校コフ(音譯)

絶えず彼の家の中にサリヤ子と、トウリヤ部屋を捜り、辱

彼を面して、彼を悩まして申したり

問. 実際、幾人貴方に何と話したか

答. 彼、神父に死なうと思つて彼を殺した、と申したり

* * *

己に S X 一〇三三四 陸軍司令官少佐 D. J. マーティン 大佐

書中ニ於テ言及せしタル 證據 B、ト記せしル吾類ニテ

本日一九四六年五月二十七日 余、面前ニ於テ彼が前述宣誓

せし時ニ 彼提言をせし

W. ツセル 大尉 (署名)

No. 7